

"KNOW THYSELF."

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SPIRIT PHENOMENA.

Albert Morton.

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SPIRIT PHENOMENA.

“Science has to transcend phenomena at every step; the whole fabric of human knowledge would collapse unless the testimony of consciousness was accepted to facts not found among phenomena, but inferred from them.”—*The Scientific Basis of Spiritualism*, Epes Sargent.

Many earnest and capable writers on the subject of spiritualism attach undue importance to the physical phenomena,—sounds, movements of material objects without physical contact, and materialization of the semblances of human forms,—claiming these manifestations to be the only foundations upon which the truth of Spiritualism can be scientifically demonstrated. This position is not tenable, for the claims of Spiritual science can only be established by the exercise of reason in drawing deductions from the phenomena presented, whether they be of a physical or spiritual nature. Scientists like Zollner may attempt to account for the passage of matter through matter by surmising a fourth dimension or some other unknown physical laws; but the fourth dimensional or any theory based on physical laws cannot explain away the evidence of super-mundane intelligence manifested in messages showing a knowledge of matters which is not in the minds of mortals present, which cannot be accounted for by any other theory than of the existence and power of communication of unseen intelligencies. This phase of spiritual phenomena was of common occurrence before the advent of Modern Spiritualism.

The exercise of clairvoyant, clairaudient, psychometric and intuitional powers present conclusive evidence of the ability of decarnated spirits to communicate with mortals without the aid of physical manifestations.

While there are many who require physical manifestations, being so mentally constituted that without such evidence they cannot accept anything outside of the ordinary range of human senses and experiences, and like Thomas must touch the flesh, there are many others who require only mental phases to convince them of the truth of the existence of the spirit after its departure from the body, and of its power to communicate with mortals under proper conditions. The truly spiritual mind revolts from the belief that the mere dropping off of the physical habiliments of the spirit ends its existence, and considers the body merely the servant of an immortal soul. I became firmly convinced of the truth that all human life is continuous and progressive, and of communion between the two spheres of life, years before receiving any communication through mediums. Having failed to find any satisfaction in my efforts to "get religion," my attention was called to the evidence in favor of Spiritualism, which seemed to me to present the only reasonable solution of the problem of life, and it was probably more readily accepted owing to my hitherto unsuspected possession of mediumistic powers. Some years after my acceptance of the belief, circumstances led to my acquaintance with many of the clearest clairvoyants and most powerful physical mediums in the world, and some of my experiences will now be related.

One of the first and most powerful mediums for physical manifestations, movements of objects, etc., I ever met was a young woman, about eighteen years old, in rather delicate health, and of a spare, frail physique, named Susan Grimshaw, the daughter of intelligent and worthy people residing in Milwaukee, Wis. The table tippings and movements in the presence of this young woman were powerful, and presented evidence of a power and intelligence far beyond her own strength and outside of herself. At a seance in 1862, in my well lighted parlor and in the presence of six witnesses, after the usual sittings for tippings, the spirits were asked if they could move the table while I was seated upon it, which was done; finding the power was quite strong, the medium's brother was also requested to sit upon the table. Our united weight was over three hundred pounds. The frail girl placed the tips of her fingers upon the table, and without any apparent pressure or exertion on her part the table, with us upon it was moved easily around the room in any desired direction; and finally, despite our efforts to prevent it, we were thrown from the table upon the floor. "Unconscious Cerebration" had not then been invented by Dr. Carpenter.

Within the same year I formed the acquaintance of the Davenport Brothers and William Fay, (who was then associated with them,) and in many public and private seances with them witnessed the manifestations usually occurring in their presence. One illustration will suffice. The cabinet was made of thin walnut boards and set upon trestles, placed so that no confederates could have been concealed from the sight of the audience. The brothers sat upon

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fixed seats at opposite ends of the cabinet which had three doors in front. After Ira was securely tied, the ropes being passed around the body and the wrists tied behind the back, the ends then passed through holes in the seat and again knotted around the ankles, the door was closed, and while the committee-man, who had tied William in a similar manner, was stooping to examine the knots, a strong right hand and arm reached over William's left side and gave the man a severe slap on the back, which was not only seen and heard by myself but by all present: the closed door was immediately opened and the brothers found securely tied. The doors were then both closed, and, in less time than would be required to remove a coat, several hands were thrust out of an opening in the upper part of the middle door, the boards upon the top were moved apart, and through the crevice a finely formed arm, bared to the shoulder, and apparently that of a woman, was thrust upward, waving her hand to the audience. Immediately the doors were thrown open, the boys were found sitting quietly with their coats on and their wrists tied behind them, precisely as they were left but a minute before. This occurred in the sight of about two hundred witnesses, and there was no possibility of collusion, or that the hands and arms presented from the cabinet were those of the boys tied therein. The evidence of Rev. Jesse B. Ferguson—"the noblest work of God, an honest man,"—and scores of others of undoubted veracity and acuteness of observation, as to the genuineness of the manifestations given through these mediums cannot be shaken, and Ira Davenport Sr. was a man of such stern and upright mould that

he would have been the first to denounce any dishonesty, if practiced.

While in charge of the Spiritual meetings in Milwaukee I made several engagements with a young speaker, since then become well known as one of the foremost among our lecturers, Mrs. Helen L. Palmer *née* Wiltse, wife of the present postmaster of Portland, Maine, and her services were greatly in demand for the exercise of her remarkably clear clairvoyant powers. One illustration of the power to discern objects without the aid of human sight was illustrated in this wise. Pads would be placed over the medium's eyes and securely bound thereupon with handkerchiefs, leaving no possibility of her being able to open or use her eyes. The persons present would then place their watches in her lap—not knowing the time themselves,—after which she would take them, one by one, and pass them to their proper owners, giving the exact second of time indicated by them without a failure, and the variation in several watches would sometimes be of several minutes. The fact that some of the watches had hunting cases which were not opened until after the time was announced, did not interfere with the accuracy of the clairvoyant sight.

While visiting Dr. W. D. Holbrook, dentist, with this medium, the spirits manifested a power quite as remarkable as some of the operations by Dr. Charcot, in Paris, which are attracting so much attention to the subject of Hypnotism. Seating herself in the doctor's operating chair, she playfully asked him to examine some of her teeth, to see if they were worth filling. Shortly her control, "Rosie," took posses-

sion of the medium, and asking the writer to hold her hands, told the doctor to proceed with his examination. The doctor decided that some of the teeth needed filling, which he promised to do if the medium would submit to the operation; whereupon "Rosie" expressed the opinion that she could hold possession of the medium, and have the necessary work done then without her knowledge. Dr. H. decided to make the experiment, and the writer held the medium's hands, while he excavated and filled three cavities with amalgam.

The medium remained unconscious while the work was being done, and when it was completed, coming out of her trance, she asked if the teeth were worth preservation. Handing her a mirror, the doctor asked her to look and decide for herself, when greatly to her surprise and delight she found the dreaded operation had been performed without her knowledge.

My first experience with Charles H. Foster will show the absurdity of the fakirs' tricks in their so-called explanations of the production of the stigmata. In March, 1864, I called upon Mr. Foster for a sitting. He answered the door-bell, and greatly to my surprise manifested much pleasure in meeting me, for it was the first time we met, but it was the commencement of a friendship which still continues to exist. Ignoring the appeals of persons waiting in the reception room, and regardless of my desire to wait for my turn, he ushered me into his seance room, and proceeded to give me many remarkable tests of his powers. Among others he said, "Your Aunt is here and will give her name upon my arm." Pushing up his

sleeve he made a few downward passes over his fair fat arm, and I saw red lines begin to rise, resembling the effects of a sharp blow with a lash upon the skin; very shortly the marks assumed the forms of written letters about an inch in height, forming the name of "Lois," the name of an aunt who had recently passed to spirit life, which fact I was not aware of at that time. The name remained plainly in sight for a few moments, then faded away, leaving no traces upon the arm.

I first met Dr. Henry Slade in August, 1870, ten days subsequent to the demise of my wife. Dr. Slade was then making his first visit to Boston, and at the session of the Children's Progressive Lyceum, the preceding Sunday, (which was devoted chiefly to a memorial service to my wife,) he described a spirit marching with the group which she had led only three Sundays previously, which her coworkers declared to be an accurate description of her. Having possessed a fine mediumship and some knowledge of the laws of control, and not being physically exhausted by lingering disease, she was able to manifest her presence to several mediums very shortly after her transition. Hearing of this evidence of the then comparatively unknown powers of the medium, induced me to call upon him the following day, to endeavor to obtain a communication from my wife through slate-writing. I was a stranger to the medium, and in response to my request he washed and dried a slate, which did not entirely escape my sight during the seance. Holding the slate, upon which was a crumb of pencil, pressed against the under side of the leaf of the table with his left hand, the

sion of the medium, and asking the writer to hold her hands, told the doctor to proceed with his examination. The doctor decided that some of the teeth needed filling, which he promised to do if the medium would submit to the operation; whereupon "Rosie" expressed the opinion that she could hold possession of the medium, and have the necessary work done then without her knowledge. Dr. H. decided to make the experiment, and the writer held the medium's hands, while he excavated and filled three cavities with amalgam.

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thumb of which rested upon the table, with his right hand he clasped both of my hands, which rested upon the table, and almost immediately sounds of writing were heard. When withdrawn, the crumb of pencil rested upon the last letter of the initials, and I found upon the slate, six by nine inches in size, a communication (filling nineteen lines, containing one hundred and nineteen words,) characteristic of my wife, and signed with her initials. In the communication she mentioned meeting "John," a mutual friend who died in Italy only a few months previously. It is hardly reasonable to think the slate could have been previously prepared for the unexpected visit of a stranger, nor was there another slate in the room to be exchanged for the one cleaned in my presence; and to write a communication of such length out of sight and reach, with a fragment of pencil under the finger-nail, would surpass the powers of the fakir of the Seybert Commission, who deluded the wise men, and "subsequently repeated the trick and revealed its every detail," in exposing Dr. Slade's methods to one of the members of that astute and highly honorable Commission.

In the early part of 1872, I resided at the house of Dr. Slade in New York, several weeks, for the especial purpose of developing my physical mediumship. During my residence with him, I frequently witnessed manifestations of a strong physical nature which could not be attributed to any human agency. One afternoon, while the sun was shining brightly into the parlor, (Dr. S., the only other mortal present, being seated several feet distant,) while the ends of my fingers rested lightly upon the top of a table,

it was lifted and turned upward until its four legs were pointed to the ceiling over my head. Being fully conscious that no muscular power could produce such a result as my fingers were placed, I cannot accept the conclusions of the eminent scientists who wisely explain the cause of the manifestations they know nothing of.

In many sittings with Dr. Slade, I saw materialized hands, varying in size from those of little children to those of grown people, make their appearance from underneath the table upon which all of our hands rested. There was no chance for fraud and frequently the little hands patted my knees and played with the charms upon my watch chain. The appearance of the hands was natural, and to attribute the manipulations to the movements of the medium's foot, as has been done, is too absurd to be worthy of contradiction. It is useless to reason with or present evidences to the scientists who "strain at a gnat and swallow a camel," and they may be left to discover they have a soul superior to its fleshly embodiment after they have "shuffled off the mortal coil."

On two occasions I witnessed materializations of heads and faces, which, although life-like and complete, were etherial and seemed illuminated from within. Twice while residing with Dr. Slade he was attacked with spasms, arising from an organic defect of his heart, and his guides wished my wife to come from Boston and assist him. Without informing me of their intentions they forced her to go from Boston to New York, by producing such powerful manifestations, heavy raps and violent movement of her bed, etc., that she could get no rest until impressed with

their desires, and had promised to comply with them. Once while she was visiting him we were requested to hold a seance for materialization in the evening, the only mortals present being Dr. Slade, Mrs. Morton and the writer. The room afforded no place for the concealment of confederates, the walls and floors no traps, as I knew from my investigations, and the only preparation made for the seance was to suspend a thin silesia curtain at a distance of about one foot from the folding-doors between the adjoining parlors, and place the table at which we were seated in front of it.

The two front parlors were brilliantly lighted and occupied by visitors, whom we could hear conversing. The light in our room was bright enough to enable us to read messages upon the slates, and from my position I could see a ray of light streaming into the room through the keyhole of the closed doors. Under these conditions it would have been impossible for a confederate to gain admission to the room without being detected. I sat between Dr. Slade and my wife, with all our hands in sight upon the table during the materializations. After receiving several short messages upon a slate, we sat quietly for a short time, when masses, seemingly of light vapor, were visible in the corner of the room; these passed behind the curtain, and soon a hand appeared at the aperture, when my wife exclaimed, "Why Albert! that is Sarah's hand and wrist, and the same dress and lace with which I dressed her for the casket." The identity was perfect, even to a crookedness of the little finger, as in life. The hand was waved to us in answer to our recognitions and passed

from sight, soon to be replaced by the face of my spirit wife, as plain and natural as when in the form ; she bowed and smiled in answer to our questions, then made way for another face, which I was confident was that of my mother, although my memory of her was somewhat indistinct, she having died about thirty years previously ; but in answer to my wife's remark, " I am impressed that is your mother, Albert," she bowed assent, then moved away. In a very short time another head appeared, that of a noble and venerable spirit, from whom I had received many messages to encourage me in my efforts to extend the knowledge of spirit communion. It was the face of grand old Father Pierpont, as natural as when I saw him at the National Convention of Spiritualists, (to which I was a delegate,) only three days previous to his departure to the higher life, where he has found broader fields for his labors in behalf of temperance and freedom.

I must not close my record of experiences with Dr. Slade, without stating the results of my sittings with him for the development of slate-writing, which his guides gave me positive assurance would be produced through me ; for it may save some new investigators from serious loss of time and means. I was desirous of obtaining that development and my spirit friends permitted the trial, although they did not encourage it. They probably saw that I would not be satisfied without making the effort, and if it resulted in failure that I would be more ready to comply with their wishes for my labors in other directions ; and through such experiences I learned to trust in their judgment. The result of my efforts was the

loss of nearly all of my physical mediumship, and after months of trial and large expenditures of money I was coolly told by his leading control to "go home and be content with your humble sphere of labor." The advice of the mendacious spirit was sensible, if heartless, and I concluded if they had got all they wanted from me, at least I had gained a valuable experience. My loss may have been their gain for future important work; but I am unable to see any honor or justice in the Jesuitical motto, based on St. Paul's teachings, that "the end justifies the means," either in mundane or spiritual fields of action; and my experiences have taught me that, as a general rule, the guides of physical mediums have no scruples in using any means, however unjust, to increase their powers; and that undeveloped mediums risk the loss of their powers, time and means in efforts to develop physical mediumship by sitting in promiscuous circles, or with mercenary physical mediums, who have well organized but unscrupulous controls. While such mediums may present strong evidences of spirit-power, the advice given through them must be very carefully scrutinized. The claims of many advertising mediums, that they keep a choice supply of powerful spirits on hand, ever ready to accompany their slates, blotting pads and amulets to develop mediumship—for a *pecuniary consideration*—is a foul libel upon the honesty and common sense that characterizes all good and genuine mediumship; and not until such vile tricksters are relegated to the ranks of the fakirs, in which they belong, and are discountenanced by spiritualists, can we expect Spiritualism to receive the respect from reasoning people to which it is entitled by the grandeur of its teachings.

While residing in Boston, the first year after my marriage to my present wife was devoted by us to the development of my mediumship. Our house seemed to be impregnated with the elements necessary for the production of physical manifestations, which at times were very powerful.

The father of my companion's little Indian control, (Milly,) was in earth life a medicine man of the Oneida tribe, named Tomeka, who possessed great powers, which he frequently used in our house for the production of music resembling the tones of a bugle. Our daughters were opposed to our devoting our lives to the public, unremunerative and unpopular work of mediumship, and Tom delighted in giving them what he termed "a good blowing up"; and it was a frequent occurrence for us to see them startled by loud blasts from "Tom's horn," apparently issuing from under their skirts or the chairs upon which they were seated. Notes and short bars of music were frequently heard in different rooms, and generally in the daytime, although there were no musical instruments in the house except a piano and a small music-box. The sounds were so loud and frequent at times that the neighbors seemed to be annoyed by the apparent tooting of a tyro with a bugle. When our front door was opened to admit visitors whose influence was agreeable to Tom, he frequently saluted them with a powerful blast from his horn, the sound appearing to issue from the front stairway. The spirit was persistent in calling me to rise mornings, and for a long time as regularly as seven o'clock was struck, I would be notified by a loud reveille from underneath my dressing bureau.

During this year a variety of phases of physical mediumship were manifested, including the production of portraits of spirits through my individual mediumship, and rappings and materialization of forms, probably by a combination of the influences. One morning five different members of the family averred that they had seen my former wife moving about in their rooms as naturally as though in the form, which was probably a materialized spirit, as but two of the persons possessed any clairvoyant powers.

One night, with the gas-light shining into my room, and when as conscious of my wakeful condition as at this present time of writing, I felt a hand caressing my head and cheek; turning to see the position of my wife, I discovered the hand was not that of a human being; and, placing my hand upon it, asked, "Is this yours, Sarah?" The hand lingered a moment, lovingly pressing my cheek, and felt as substantial as the hand that grasped it, then dissolved under my own without any sensation of being withdrawn. In a few moments I felt a smaller hand caressing my cheek, and thridding my beard through its dear little fingers; placing my hand upon it, I found it, too, was not distinguishable by the sense of feeling from that of an earthly child, and it soon dissolved under mine. All the arguments or theories of all the psychical research and metaphysical theorists in Christendom could not shake my conviction that it was my blessed privilege to clasp hands with the spirit wife and darling boy who have preceded me to the land of realities.

The manifestations were spontaneous, and were

seldom given in response to solicitations, except in the form of rappings, which were given more as manifestations of power than for the purpose of giving intelligent communications, which were more freely given orally, and by mechanical and impressional writing.

Spirit drawings present one of the most interesting phases of mediumship. I was in Havana, Cuba, during the trial of W. H. Mumler, in New York, for obtaining money under false pretenses by the production of spirit photographs, a charge which was refuted by the evidence of many prominent residents of that city, including some of the leading photographers, among them the elder Gurney, eminent in his business, who, with righteous indignation, determined to expose what he thought was a vile fraud. In his investigations, to which Mr. Mumler willingly submitted, after applying all the tests known in his art, under his own conditions and in galleries strange to Mr. Mumler, whose only agency in the production of the photographs was to place his fingers upon the camera while the plate was exposed, (Mr. Gurney furnishing his own plates and chemicals, and the medium not seeing any of the materials used until the plates were developed, having upon them spirit faces); the result was, as Mr. Gurney told me, he was forced to admit the genuineness of the productions; and, pursuing his investigations in other phases, he became an earnest and enthusiastic believer in Spiritualism. Although fully vindicated from the charges made, the medium was financially ruined by the expenses attending the trial; and on my return to Boston, I found him striving to eke out

the scanty income gained by spirit photography, by giving circles for the production of symbolical spirit drawings, produced under strict test conditions. The manner of procedure at the circles was as follows: The audience was seated in the front parlor, in which the light was sufficiently strong to render every movement in both parlors plainly visible. In the back parlor, fifteen or more feet distant from the dim light, the medium was seated at a table upon which were a number of plain cards, three by five inches in size, and drawing pencils. After a prelude upon the piano by my daughter, the medium would become entranced, and was then blindfolded by tying a folded handkerchief over his eyes. Mrs. Mumler then handed ballot papers for the audience to write the names of departed friends upon, requesting that the papers be folded so as to conceal the names. A card was then passed around to show that it was free from drawings, and was returned after having a private mark placed upon it by some member of the circle. In the many circles I attended, I never knew of a failure to have a test given by drawing and names upon the marked card. The ballots being in our sight, Mr. Mumler would place his hand upon them, and proceed with the drawings while blindfolded, and in a light too dim to see to make them if the eyes were open. In this manner, I have known him to produce twenty-two exquisitely fine drawings in less than ninety minutes, which an experienced and rapid draughtsman would find it difficult to duplicate, under the most favorable conditions of light.

On one of the cards now before me, at the top are

three mountain tops, over the highest peak the morning sun appears; in front of the mountain is a star-crowned temple of Grecian architecture, on the pediment of which is inscribed the word PROGRESS, and many people are ascending the steps leading to the temple, around the base of which are clouds from which rays of light are proceeding; underneath the clouds is a floating form bearing in its hands a scroll upon which is penciled in fine letters, "I greet you." Below the form is a cluster of beautiful flowers, above which is written "John Maddocks," the name upon my ballot, which was unopened until the drawing was completed, being the name of the friend given upon the slate described in the seance with Dr. Slade. If the medium were able to read the ballot clairvoyantly, it would have been impossible for him to have made the drawing in the dim light, which was done within the sight of all those present.

One of the most pleasing tests of a spirit drawing was given through myself. Previous to leaving Boston I had been impressed to make several portraits of spirits, but the recognition of likenesses was so infrequent, I was obliged to suspend my efforts in that direction. A few months after locating in San Francisco, one of our sitters, who was a great admirer of Margaret Fuller Ossoli, (with whom he had frequent communions through my wife, then entranced and unconsciously controlled,) regretted the failure of attempts through different mediums to obtain her portrait. Later the gentleman told me he had been promised the portrait through myself, but I very reluctantly consented to make the trial (having met with so many failures). Finally I pro-

cured materials, and by impression obtained what was pronounced to be a satisfactory outline, which I was requested to work out in crayons. While engaged upon this portrait Margaret told me, through my wife, "Before you complete my portrait you will have an excellent test in connection with it."

One morning I was impressed to place a sheet of paper upon my easel, and draw the outlines of the head of a man with a decidedly marked and fine cast of features. My wife knew nothing of my trial, but coming into my office just as I was completing the drawing, asked, "What are you doing?" to which I replied, "I have just got a fine head, but it is of a stranger to me." Looking over my shoulder, she exclaimed in surprise and delight, "Why, Albert! that is my uncle, Captain Seth Hasty." Then the light shone through upon me. Captain Hasty was the master of the brig upon which Count Ossoli, with his wife and son, embarked at Leghorn to escape imprisonment for engaging upon the liberal side in the revolution at Rome. The captain died, and was buried at sea off Gibraltar; and after a tedious voyage, marked by sickness and disaster, the ship was wrecked on Fire Island, near the haven of rest for weary voyagers. The captain's widow and mate's wife were saved by the crew, but Margaret refused to be separated from her husband and boy, and before the men could return to the wreck it was engulfed, carrying down the eloquent scholar, and noble, self-sacrificing mother, with the loved ones with whom death was preferable to separation. In the portrait I had the likeness of one I had never seen, and the fulfillment of the promise was to me a beautiful test.

In the *Banner of Light*, of Feb. 20th, 1875, was a lengthy communication from Dr. G. Bloede, of Brooklyn, N. Y., describing the remarkable manifestations given in a private house in Oakland, Cal., through the mediumship of a young half-breed Indian girl, a servant in the family of Mr. B. Shortly thereafter the Mr. M.—referred to therein, (who was one of the officers of the San Francisco Academy of Sciences,) requested us to take the medium into our home, and assist in placing her in a position where the remarkable manifestations which occurred in her presence could be made of service to investigators. For several weeks I had daily sittings with her, to enable the guides to make proper conditions for her, and then extended invitations for private sittings, but held no circles. The manifestations were powerful, and soon became systematized so as to be relied upon under all proper conditions. Want of space prevents giving but a few illustrations of the working of the invisibles.

I have generally been favored with the presence of many dear spirit children, and some of the most convincing tests of unseen power and intelligence were given by them in our seances. One of their favorite manifestations was the production of raps upon the table and carpet, giving an excellent representation of rain, varying from the imitation of a gentle shower to a heavy storm, with water dripping from a roof; and sometimes they were assisted to produce heavy raps in imitation of thunder, accompanied with flashes of spirit light to represent lightning. For these manifestations we always sat in a well lighted room.

At one end of my library table, out of foot-reach, we generally kept a vacant cane-seated chair, with which my little spirit son and his companions took great delight in imitating the rocking of a cradle. In answer to our request, the children would move the chair a slight distance from the table, and while we repeated the nursery rhymes, "Rock a bye, baby," etc., the chair would be gently rocked upon its hind legs without human contact, and when the catastrophe was reached—"Down came the baby and cradle and all,"—the chair would be thrown violently upon the floor, and frequently several feet away. Desiring to test the power on one occasion, when the chair was standing in plain sight away from the table, I took out my watch, and requested the children to try how long they could hold the chair resting upon the two hind legs. The chair was gently reclined backward at an angle of about forty-five degrees, and held in that position for one minute and forty-five seconds, without any visible agency or concealed machinery. Here was an apparent suspension of the action of the law of gravitation, which it would puzzle material scientists to explain by physical laws.

Another very satisfactory and pleasing class of manifestations was the production of music upon a guitar without human contact. With the guitar placed upon the floor underneath the table, if a stranger were present we would request him to place his feet upon ours, and while in this position, with all of our hands joined upon the table, beautiful tunes were played upon the instrument, which were executed in a style which would be considered cred-

itable as the production of an accomplished guitarist.

Correct accompaniments were played to our singing, and the base of the guitar was generally placed in the sitter's lap, where they could see the vibration of the strings although the cause producing them was invisible. Communications were frequently given in answer to questions which could be answered in the affirmative or negative, by striking the strings three times for yes, and once for no, after the usual formula used by rapping mediums.

All of these manifestations were produced in a well lighted room, and under conditions that precluded the agency of any mortal. Many of the witnesses to those manifestations can be cited to bear testimony as to the accuracy of my statements.

These phenomena, which cannot be accounted for on any other hypothesis than the agency of invisible, intelligent power, occurred in my presence almost daily for several months, and I positively declare that they were not produced by any mortals present at the seances.

A writer of many years' widely extended experience with mediums recently expressed the opinion that Southern California presents the most favorable conditions for the development of mediumistic powers, and thinks it may yet become the Mecca of Spiritualists; with which views I fully concur. The meteorological statistics, carefully kept for years, prove that Santa Barbara and vicinity has the most equable and salubrious climate of any health resort in the world, and the locality is exempt from all malarial diseases. The climatic and scenic advantages of Summerland, with its balmy atmosphere, surpass

those of Santa Barbara; and if the natural advantages of this lovely location are supplemented by the harmonious action of its residents, we may reasonably expect grand spiritual unfoldments from their association in that spot, where extremes of temperature are never known, where flowers ever bloom, and where bounteous nature offers a comfortable support for those willing to improve the great advantages she offers to the industrious.

While visiting Summerland in June, 1889, I had the pleasure of attending a seance with a medium I first met in Boston in 1865, Henry B. Allen ("The Allen Boy"), now the respected Postmaster, Notary Public and Express Agent at Summerland, and a powerful dark circle medium. The seance was in a small building erected especially for circle uses, which is isolated from other buildings and has no windows, being sheathed and wainscotted to exclude light. The circle was held in the daytime, and the aid of confederates was impossible, as there was no place for concealment, nor means of admission to the building, except through the doorway. The party was composed of five persons, seated at a large table as below indicated:

ALBERT MORTON,

MRS. O. K. SMITH,

TABLE.

H. L. WILLIAMS,

MISS M. A. EVERHARD,

HENRY B. ALLEN.

Upon the table were writing pads and pencils, and upon the floor was a variety of musical instruments. Our hands were all clasped with those adjoining us,

and Mrs. Smith and Miss Everhard held the wrists of the medium, which they averred they held tightly while the manifestations were being produced.

The light being extinguished, we were soon favored with music upon the instruments; the heavy dulcimer, weighing about thirty pounds, was floated over our heads, and beautiful airs were played upon it in response to requests of members of the circle. I was then requested to exchange seats with Mrs. Smith, when I grasped the medium's wrist, and held it securely until the close of the seance. While in this position, the dulcimer was again floated over our heads, and was finally laid upon the hands of Mrs. Smith and myself; and I was several times greeted by Holland, the leading control, and felt his hand,—larger than any human hand present,—upon my head and touching my cheeks. Soon sounds of writing upon the tablets were heard. Mr. Williams received an answer to a mental question; the ladies received several written messages, which were deposited in their laps, and I felt hands thrusting papers into my inside coat pocket.

When the lamp was lighted, I found five written communications in my pocket, which evidently had not been written by human hands. One was a greeting from Holland; another from Belle Wide-awake, the control of a medium I knew in Boston in former years. My spirit wife wrote a brief message, assuring me of her continued efforts to assist her loved ones, to which her given name (unknown to the medium) was affixed. My old friend in earth life, from whom I have received many communications since his transition, Prof. William Denton, as-

sured me he was "still a laborer for truth"; and another old friend and co-worker, Dr. H. F. Gardner, to whom, since his demise, I have been greatly indebted for assistance in the business management of spiritual meetings, — in which sphere of labor he was without a peer, — wrote to me: "I am pleased to meet the old friends and workers in truth. I often visit this place, and we on the spirit side of life are interested in this movement; there will be grand and glorious results emanate from here."

Having entire confidence in the honor of the members of the circle, and knowing the medium could not have produced the manifestations after the change of places mentioned without my knowledge, was to me satisfying evidence of their genuineness; but "to make assurance doubly sure," after my return to this city, through the mediumship of my wife, I was told that the writers of the last three messages gave them as before stated.

I have given a plain and unexaggerated statement of a few of the manifestations which have occurred in my presence. To those who are quick to denounce as fraud what they have not witnessed or do not understand, I will only add that if you seek fraud you will undoubtedly attract it; and I commend you to seek the truth in the spirit of charity, patience, and humility.

The Spiritist who professes Spiritualism and practices hypocrisy, is as simple as the ostrich that covers his head to conceal his body, and is easily detected by the Psychic; the psychometrist reads between the lines of the printed page. The Churchist who says "Thou God seest me," and lives the life of a Pharisee, gives the lie to his profession. God will call him to account when the god within wakes up.

THE NEW

Spiritualist ✱ Colony

—OF—

SUMMERLAND !

Located Five Miles below the City of Santa Barbara.

**Fine Ocean, Mountain and Valley Scenery, and the Most
Equable Climate of any Health Resort in
America or Europe.**

BUILDING PROGRESSING RAPIDLY.

It has long been the desire of many Spiritualists that a Spiritualist Colony, or place of pleasurable and educational resort, might be located at some convenient point on this Coast — a place where the Spiritualists of the world could meet and establish permanent homes, and enjoy all the advantages, not only of our “glorious climate,” but of the social and spiritual communion that such association of Spiritualists would insure.

Summerland offers all the advantages for such a colony, located as it is upon the seashore, in the unequalled climate of Santa Barbara, and but five miles from that most beautiful city, a spot overlooking the ocean, extending even to its silvered shore, with a background of mountains, which forms a shelter from the north winds, insuring what that country has the reputation of enjoying — the most equable climate in the world. It is located on the Southern Pacific Railroad, now completed between Santa Barbara and Los Angeles, and on what in the near future will be the main line of that road.^o

The site constitutes a part of what is known as the Ortega Rancho, owned by H. L. Williams. It faces the south and ocean, gently sloping to the latter, where as fine bathing ground exists as can be found on this Coast. A fine beach drive extends to and beyond the city of Santa Barbara. Back, and two and a half miles to the north, extends the Santa Inez range of mountains, forming a beautiful and picturesque background. A most beautiful view of the mountains, islands, ocean, and along the coast, is had from all parts of the site. The soil is of the very best. Pure spring water is distributed over the entire tract from an unfailing source, having a pressure of two hundred feet head, affording adequate protection against fire. Water will be conveyed to every house free of charge for piping.

Latitude of Summerland, $34^{\circ} 22'$; Longitude, $119^{\circ} 43'$.

Average Annual Rainfall at Santa Barbara for 19 yrs., 17.38 in.

COMPARATIVE TEMPERATURE, At Various Celebrated Health Resorts, and other Places of Note.						Comparative Temperature of Sea Water.			
LOCATION.	Win- ter.	Spring	Sum- mer.	Autu- m.	Dif. Sum. Win.		Santa Bar- bara Cal.	Santa Cruz, Cal.	New port R. I.
STA. BARBARA	54.23	59.45	67.71	63.11	13.42	Jan....	60	52	32
Nassau, Bahama Is ..	70.67	77.57	86.00	80.33	15.33	Feb....	61	53	32
San Diego, California.	54.09	60.14	69.67	64.63	15.58	March...	61	52	34
Mentone	49.50	60.00	73.00	56.60	23.50	April...	61	57	43
Nice, Italy	47.88	56.23	72.26	61.63	24.44	May....	61	57	52
New Orleans, La.....	56.00	69.37	81.08	69.80	25.08	June...	62	58	62
Jacksonville, Florida.	55.02	68.88	81.93	62.54	28.91	July....	64	60	66
Pau, France.....	41.86	54.06	70.72	57.39	28.98	Aug....	65	60	70
Boston, Mass.....	28.06	45.61	68.68	51.04	40.60	Sept....	66	60	65
New York, N. Y.....	31.93	48.26	72.62	48.50	40.69	Oct....	63	56	58
Denver, Colorado.....	27.66	46.23	71.66	47.16	41.00	Nov....	61	55	44
St. Paul, Minnesota...	15.09	41.29	68.03	44.98	52.04	Dec....	60	53	36
Minneapolis, Minn...	12.87	40.12	64.34	45.33	55.49	Mean..	62	56	46

The comparative mean temperature of the six coldest months in Santa Barbara is 56.55, being .52 warmer than at the city of Mexico; 3.34 warmer than at Mentone, France, and 8.10 warmer than at Nice, Italy.

The climate at Summerland is superior to that of Santa Barbara.

Steps are being taken to erect a large hotel upon Ortega Hill. The following endorsement of that hill for such purpose was made by the leading citizens of Santa Barbara. As Ortega Hill adjoins Summerland it is an indirect endorsement of our Colony site :

SANTA BARBARA, Cal., Feb. 13, 1889.

To whom it may concern: We, the undersigned, business men of Santa Barbara, California, take pleasure in certifying that we are familiar with Ortega Hill, owned by H. L. Williams, of this place, and of its surroundings ; that it is one of the finest locations and sites on this Coast for a large hotel and sanitarium ; that the erection of such buildings will fill a want in this county.

The hill is located immediately upon the ocean, with an elevation of a little over 200 feet above sea level, is very accessible, and commands one of the most magnificent views in the world of the ocean, islands, town, valleys and mountains. The site is so situated as to give a full view of the ocean, with its undulating shores, and miles of beach drives, the town and valley of Carpinteria, the beautiful Montecito valley, the city of Santa Barbara, five miles distant. The Santa Ynez range of mountains, which rise some 4,000 feet above the sea, form the background, the whole making a beautiful, real and living picture. We are certain that a hotel erected on this site would attract people from all sections of the world, and be a profitable investment to the stockholders. Our equable climate is too well known to mention. The beach at Ortega Hill is as fine for bathing as any on the Coast.

Geo. W. Coffin, President Commercial Bank ; W. B. Metcalf, Cashier Commercial Bank ; W. M. Eddy, Pres't S. Barbara Co. Nat'l B'k ; E. S. Sheffield, Cshr. S. Barbara Co. Nat'l Bk. ; Walter H. Nixon, Editor Santa Barbara Press ; R. M. Dillard, Judge Superior Court ; F. L. Kellogg, County Clerk, C. A. Stewart, County Recorder ; R. J. Broughton, County Sheriff ; A. O. Perkins, Agt. Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express ; J. T. Johnson, County Auditor ; M. F. Burke, County Tax Collector ; Walter B. Core, County District Attorney ; John Edwards, V-Pres't. S. Barbara Co. Nat'l B'k ; J. M. Hunter, Director S. Barbara Co. Nat'l B'k ; J. W. Calkins, President First Nat'l B'k. ; N. P. Austin, Director First Nat'l B'k. ; John P. Stearns, Mayor of Santa Barbara ; G. P. Tebbetts, Manager *Daily Independent* ; S. W. Candy, Publisher Santa Barbara Herald ; I. K. Fisher, Councilman of Fifth Ward ; S. W. Bouton, Court Comms'r S. Barbara Co. W. J. Haverly, Justice of

the Peace ; Thos. McNulta, City Attorney of Santa Barbara ; Smith, County Assessor ; C. A. Thompson, Councilman Third Santa Barbara ; J. L. Barker, Ex-City Surveyor, City of S. B. S. B. P. Knox, M. D. ; W. A. Williams, M. D. ; John J. Boyce, Attorney at Law ; Wm. Lavies, Postmaster ; W. I. Nichols, Attorney at A. E. Putnam, Attorney at Law ; Barber & Hatherton, Architects

The object of this Colony is to

ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF SPIRITUALISM,

And not to make money selling lots, as the price received does not equal the price adjoining land was sold for by acre, said lands not being as good

The size of single lots is 25x60 feet, or 25x120 feet for double lot, the latter fronting on a fine 60-foot-wide avenue with a 30-foot street in the rear. Price of single lots, \$2.50 of which is donated to the Colony. By uniting four lots — price \$120 — a frontage of 50 feet by 120 feet is obtained, giving one a very commodious building site, with quite ample grounds for flowers, etc., securing a front and rear entrance.

The government of the Colony will be by its inhabitants the same as other towns and cities. A prohibitory liquor clause is in every deed. Title to property unquestionable.

Orders for lots in Summerland will be received, entered and selected by the undersigned, where parties cannot be present to select for themselves, with the privilege of exchanging for others without cost (other than recording fee) if they prefer them when they visit the ground.

Reference : Commercial Bank, Santa Barbara.

Send for plat of the town, and for further information, to

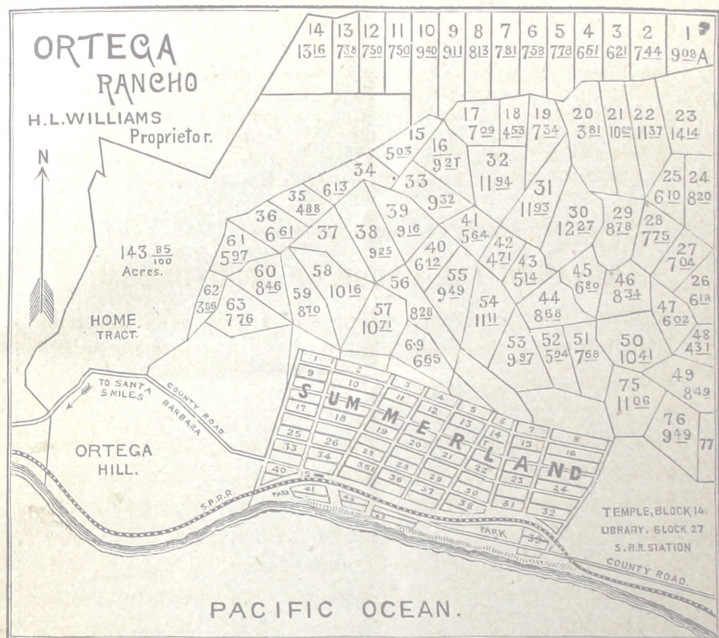
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Tracts of land containing from five to twelve acres each, capable of producing all the products of temperate and semi-tropical countries, including olives, figs, lemons, oranges, bananas, peaches, English walnuts, almonds, etc., are now offered for sale or lease, to those in sympathy with the movement, at low prices and on easy terms of payment. A pamphlet containing prices and description of each tract will be mailed on application to the agent or proprietor.

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"Mrs. Morton is one of the most gifted mediums I have ever met."—W. J. COLVILLE, *Banner of Light*, Jan., 1888.

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